

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-06 SP-02

SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 PA-02 PRS-01 IO-13

NRC-07 /128 W

-----010529Z 086392 /14

R 310831Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6575

INFO USERDA WASHDC

USERDA GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS TOKYO 4586

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, PARM, JA

SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON NUCLEAR ENERGY ISSUE

1. NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING ISSUE CONTINUES TO BE MAJOR TOPIC OF JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE. AT MEETING OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BUDGET COMMITTEE MARCH 30, PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA, FOREIGN MINISTER HATOYAMA AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTER UNO MADE FOLLOWING REMARKS IN REPLY TO OPPOSITION QUESTIONING:

2. FUKUDA (REFERRING TO PROSPECT FOR ADJUSTMENT OF VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE BETWEEN U.S. AND JAPAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES CONCERNED): I AM NOT SURE WHETHER ADJUSTMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED BY APRIL 20 AS MENTIONED BY U.S. I FEEL THAT MATTER MAY BE CARRIED OVER INTO SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF MAJOR COUNTRIES (SLATED TO BE HELD IN LONDON IN MAY).

3. HATOYAMA SAID THAT HE IS OF VIEW THAT U.S. MOVES TO RESTRICT PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN JAPAN
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CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF NPT, WHICH JAPAN HAS RATIFIED. (HATOYAMA WAS APPARENTLY MANEUVERED INTO REPLYING AFFIRMATIVELY WHEN DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST MEMBER ASKED IF HATOYAMA THOUGHT THE U.S. OPPOSITION TO JAPAN'S NUCLEAR FUEL RECYCLING PLAN VIOLATES NPT. THUS, HATOYAMA'S REPLY HAS BEEN TAKEN BY OPPOSITION IN DIET TO REPRESENT GOJ'S OFFICIAL VIEW).

4. UNO (ALSO IN REPLY TO SOCIALIST MEMBER'S QUESTION):
SHOULD NO PROGRESS BE MADE IN JAPAN'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH
U.S., START-UP OF REPROCESSING PLANT AT TOKAI VILLAGE
WILL HAVE TO BE POSTPONED. (IN PAST, GOJ HAS
REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT HOT TEST OF TOKAI PLANT WILL
BEGIN NEXT JULY. THIS IS FIRST TIME THAT GOVERNMENT
LEADER HAS PUBLICLY STATED ANOTHER POSSIBILITY).

5. IN INTERVIEW WITH NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN,
RYUKICHI IMAI (ADVISOR TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS),
REFERRING TO U.S. REPORT, "NUCLEAR POWER ISSUES AND
CHOICES" GIVEN TO FUKUDA, SAID THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT
THIS REPORT HAS CONSTITUTED THEORETICAL BACKGROUND OF
PRESIDENT CARTER'S NEW POLICY ON NUCLEAR ENERGY. HE
SAID THAT GREATEST POINT MADE BY THIS REPORT IS THAT
NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IS ROOT OF ALL EVILS, AND
THAT HAVING MANY COUNTRIES ACQUIRE A NUCLEAR WEAPONS
POTENTIAL TEN YEARS OR TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW CONSTITUTES
BIGGEST THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY. FROM JAPAN'S
STANDPOINT, IMAI SAID, NATIONAL SECURITY CAN BE
THREATENED BY OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS ENERGY SHORTAGES
AND FOOD CRISIS. IMAI ALSO TOOK ISSUE WITH U.S.
THINKING REFLECTED IN REPORT THAT FOSSILE FUELS ARE
COMMODITIES MOVING FREELY IN INTERNATIONAL MARKET,
AND SAID THAT SUPPLY OF OIL, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS COME TO
BE INFLUENCED BY PRICES AND QUANTITIES DICTATED BY
OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND IT IS FULLY CONCEIVABLE THAT
URANIUM RESOURCES IN AUSTRALIA AND SOUTHWESTERN AFRICA
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WILL NOT BE PLACED ON THE MARKET FOR POLITICAL REASONS.
TO REPORTER'S FINAL QUESTION, "BUT ISN'T THE U.S. SAYING
THAT IT WILL GUARANTEE URANIUM SUPPLY (TO JAPAN)?"
IMAI REPLIED THAT THE U.S. HAD SAID IN PAST THAT IT
WOULD GUARANTEE SUPPLY, BUT FAILED TO MAKE GOOD ON
ITS PROMISE. IMAI'S INTERVIEW APPEARED PROMINENTLY
UNDER HEADLINE READING, "MANY CONTRADICTIONS IN U.S.
NUCLEAR POLICY."
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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